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Volume I Number 1

The Rhodes Family in America

PUBLISHED BY

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Los Angeles, California

PURPOSE

To secure the cooperation of all the members of the family in the preparation of a history, biography and genealogy of all branches of the family in America and their foreign ancestory.

Published Three Times Each Year

Subscription Fifty Cents Per Year

INTRODUCTION

Preliminary Bulletin Number 1, issued in June, 1919, has established communication with several thousand members of the family, bringing a response quite as enthusiastic and interesting as unexpected. To meet this newly awakened interest it has seemed necessary to republish the content of Bulletin Number 1, and to provide a means of maintaining the working relation between correspondents thus established.

The "Rhodes Family in America" will be published hereafter three times each year, in its present form. The expense will be borne by the writer and the amount received from subscription (necessary to maintain its circulation under the law) will cover but a small portion of its cost.

The writer has been engaged for many years in the preparation of a Genealogy and Family History of the Rhodes Family in America, and at large cost of money and outlay of time devoted to research work has accumulated many volumes of genealogical, historical and biographical material, well authenticated, covering the subject. The work is being done at his exclusive expense.

While historical investigations at home and abroad are under way, and their results are being compiled and recorded, it is essential that the local history and genealogy of the various living members in America, together with that of their ancestors, be secured. This can only be done through the active co-operation of the living members of the tribe of Rhodes.

The fundamental elements of the history of all branches of the family will be published in these bulletins, affording a guide to those who are in a position and mood to co-operate in the general work. A history of the family will be published for general circulation when the work is completed. The writer is fifty years of age and hopes to complete the work during his lifetime, but should the work be uncompleted at his death, his records and manuscripts will be given to some historical library for publication or reference use, unless, in the meantime, some younger member of the Rhodes family be found who is capable, able and disposed to take the records and complete the work.

Every individual member of the family in this or other countries is earnestly requested to aid in the gathering of data, biography and vital statistics related to the subject. The writer will classify all matter submitted and, after due verification, include it in the final record.

Each person is requested to furnish all data available referring to himself or herself and any other members of the family, either by blood or marriage. That data should comprise, in full or in part, the following information regarding each individual, to-wit:

1. Their full name and present address, if living.
2. The place and date of their birth.
3. The place and date of their marriage.
4. The place and date of their death.
5. The same data as to each wife.
6. The same data as to each child.
7. The same data as to each ancestor, as far as possible.
8. State the source of the information given, whether from personal knowledge, hearsay, or written record as of family Bibles or otherwise.
9. The biography of each individual.

Correspondence is invited relating to those lines under study or those completed, and both aid and information will be cheerfully given to those desirous of working out their own individual lines.

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The Rhodes Family in America

(Derived from a common spelling, but through development, choice and environment variously spelled as Rods, Rodes, Roads, Roades, Rhods, Rhodes, Rhoades and Rode.)

Probably no one of the Colonial families of the present United States has been more constantly maintained or more numerously extended through both male and female lines. From the most trustworthy statistics available, it is estimated that there are now in the country more than fifty thousand representatives of the male lines alone, carrying the names of Rhodes in some form of its spelling.

Although less than fifty immigrant ancestors of the Rhodes family are recorded prior to the Revolution, the census of 1790 records the following members, to-wit:

North Carolina	381.	From original families.
Pennsylvania	322.	From original families.
Massachusetts	223.	From original families.
New York	215.	From Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
Rhode Island	145.	From original families.
Virginia	137.	From original families.
Maryland	109.	From Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
South Carolina	92.	From original families.
Connecticut	66.	From Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
Vermont	45.	From Rhode Island and Connecticut.
Maine	38.	From Massachusetts.
New Hampshire	11.	From Massachusetts.
Total	1784	

Every profession, trade and calling has been represented by men and women of this name, whose achievements have been creditably recorded in the various histories of their times. A false modesty has accounted for the fact that no general history of the family in America has ever been written.

Genealogically, somewhere in the past, the various branches of the family in this country probably originate from a common ancestor bearing the name, but the efforts thus far made to establish that origin are but a beginning.

A generation ago the number of independent families of that name was thought to have been large, but subsequent investigation has reduced the number, by a proven common origin, to about ten principal lines, which number will probably be greatly reduced at an early day through the completion of genealogical studies now under way.

PRE-REVOLUTIONARY COLONIAL FAMILIES

The ten general branches of the American family are the following, to-wit:

1. ZACHARIAH RHODES OF RHODE ISLAND

He came to Massachusetts after the landing of the Mayflower, and resided at Rehobeth, from which place he was banished, in 1646, for religious reasons. He is said by many to have been a brother of Henry Rhoades (spelled Rhodes in early records), of Lynn. He went to Providence and later to Warwick, Rhode Island, where he and his descendants became men of prominence and wealth, and have maintained his fine record untarnished to the present day.

Branches of his family found their way into Connecticut, and from there northward, through Massachusetts, into Vermont. In later generations they are found, chiefly, in New York, Ohio, Wisconsin and Minnesota and, less numerously, in many other states.

This family has had a remarkable record in the naval, military and political life of the country. Large numbers of its members are qualified for membership in the societies of Americans of Royal Descent, the Mayflower, Colonial Wars, Sons of the Revolution, George Washington, and others.

Should it finally be proven that Zachariah was a brother of Henry, of Lynn, his English ancestry will have been found, otherwise it is as yet unknown.

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2. HENRY RHOADES OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

He was born in Lancashire, England, in 1608, came to Massachusetts about 1640, and is said by some authorities to have been a brother of Zachariah, of Rehobeth, banished to Rhode Island.

This family is said to have come from Wales, originally. The old Rhodes castle still remains and possesses a coat of arms bearing the legend, "Better death than dishonor." The first of the name found in Wales was Gregory of Rhodes, from the Island of Rhodes, hence the name. In this branch the "Rhodes" was transformed into "Rhoades" in the second generation.

This branch has been prolific and its members are found in nearly every state of the Union. They have been largely farmers, ministers, lawyers, doctors and bankers. Numerous representatives of the original family still reside in Lynn.

A five-hundred-page genealogy of this family, in manuscript form, has been prepared by the writer and will be ready for publication in 1922.

The family history shows eligibility to the Societies of Americans of Royal Descent, Colonial Wars, Sons of the Revolution, Patriots and Founders, and others.

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3. JOHN RHOADS OF WINEGREAVES, ENGLAND, AND DARBY, PENNSYLVANIA

This is the representative Quaker branch of the family.

John of Winegreaves was born in Darbyshire, England, and came to Darby, Pennsylvania, before 1700.

The family originates from Baron Gerard de Rodes, who came from France to England in about 1140, during the reign of Henry II. Seventeen generations thereafter John of Winegreaves, a representative member, became a Quaker and removed to the new world. A large number of celebrated estates remain in possession of the British descendants of the family in England, and have been frequently visited by American members of that lineage.

It appears that at about the time Baron Gerard went to Britain, one brother went to Germany and another to Spain. Of the Spanish branch a representative member is now a Minister in the King's Cabinet. Descendants of the German branch came later to America and are found in the State of Wisconsin.

Excellent histories of certain branches of the American descendants of this family have been published in the "Maulsby Family" by Ella K. Barnard, Baltimore, 1909, and the "Clovercroft Chronicles," by Mary Rhoads Haines, published by J. B. Lippincott Company.

This is one of the most notable families in the country. Through all the generations of their American life they have held with unvarying constancy to those high ideals of living, social intercourse and patriotism which inspired their early progenitors. Many of the enterprises established by the early branches of the family still remain, in highly developed and modern condition, in the possession of their descendants of this generation.

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4. BENJAMIN RHODES OF KIPPAX, WEST RIDING, COUNTY YORK, ENGLAND

Benjamin came to Sunk Island in 1792, died there on May 4, 1856, and left descendants. He married Mary Hawkins, who died in 1824.

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5. JOHN RHODES OF VIRGINIA

This branch came early to the Americas and became prominent in the affairs of the Colony, afterward found in Tennessee and Kentucky.

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6. JOHN RHOADS OF NORTH CAROLINA

He was one of the earliest American Ancestors, and from him have sprung the most numerous branch on this continent, although their record is very obscure, due to the destruction of the historical archives of the Southern states.

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7. JOHN RHODES OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Born in 1671, he was the grandson of Sir Godfrey Rhodes, of Rowden, Yorkshire, England. His son, Captain Simon Rhodes, was in Stonington, Connecticut, before 1759, where he married Martha Babcock. Their descendants intermarried with the Woodbridges, Maxsons, Rogers, Greenes, Coopers and Huntings, and established an extensive family in that region.

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8. JOHN RHOADES OF ENGLAND AND NEW YORK

John Rhoades, said to have been born in England, was in Scarsdale, Westchester County, New York, in 1711. His descendants, Isaac, John, James, Charity, Cornelius, Anthony, and others, through intermarriage with the Hills, Marginsons, Queens, Secors, and others, established a large community in that region.

It is possble John may be descended from some other original Colonial line. A partial history of this family is found in the Couch Family Genealogy.

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9. JOHN ROAD OF PENNSYLVANIA

Representative of the Mennonite branch of the family, he founded their meeting at Parker's Ford, Schuylerkill Road, Pennsylvania, and married Catherine Holderman. The second generation, during the revolutionary times, changed the name to Rhoades.

They intermarried with the Beidlers, Longstreths and Detweilers, and scattered over Pennsylvania and Ohio.

They may later be proven to have descended from some other of the principal branches above given. A partial history of his descendants is found in the Smedley Genealogy by Gilbert Cope, published by Wickersham Printing Company, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1901.

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10. ALEXANDER RHODES OF CONNECTICUT

He was born in 1759, and through his descendants, Levi, Prudence, Chauncey, Theodore, William, George, Caroline, Nancy, and others, and their intermarriage with the families of Steel, Morris, Sage, Coleman, Tryon, Caswell, Baker and Wrights, established large families in Wethersfield, Hartford, and elsewhere.

He was probably descended from one of the above Colonial families.

The following families are of independent origin, but not strictly pre-Revolutionary Colonial stock:

11. **The descendants of Henry Rhoads,** who was born in Germany in 1739 and died in Logan County, Kentucky, in 1814, and who was "The Godfather of Mulenberg County, Kentucky," founding a numerous family of patriotic pioneers and later generatons of distinguished citizens.

12. **Henry Roth (Rhoads)** of Pfeduschein, Switzerland, who immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1733.

13. **Henry Rhodes,** who immigrated to America from Frankfort-on-the-Main in 1750, dying on the voyage, and his sons, Harmon and John Henry, who settled in Huron, Pennsylvania.

14. **John Adams Rhodes,** who immigrated to America from the Palatinate, in 1750, becoming an Ohio pioneer.

15. **George Rhoades,** who immigrated to America from the Palatinate, in 1750, and settled in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, thence to New York.

16. **Francis Rhodes,** who immigrated to Maryland from England in 1700.

17. **John Rhodes,** who came from England to Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1820.

DETACHED BRANCHES OF THE COLONIAL FAMILIES

The following families are genealogically well known, subsequent to the time of their founders, but their previous genealogy and additional facts as to their descendants are sought, to-wit:

1. **Benjamin Rhoades,** born about 1750 to 1765, who married Judith Richmond and lived in Wallingford, Vermont.

2. **Asa Rhoads,** born in 1763, married Lucy Comstock, of Smithfield, Rhode Island, and lived in Richmond, Vermont. His descendants, Lucy, Daniel, Rachel, Cornelius, Peltiah, Josephine, and others, intermarried with the families of Russell, Jewells, Smith, Jones, Chamberlains, Barneys, Barbers, and Westons.

3. **Michael Rhodes,** of Maine, born in Berwick before 1690. His descendants, Miles, Jacob, Charity, Sarah, Patience. and others, intermarried with the Donnely, Cross, Grover, Huff and Wildes families.

4. **Solomon Rhodes,** of New Hampshire. He was born in Marlborough, Massachusetts, and, with his son, Solomon, and possibly others, went to Antrim, N. H., in or before 1783. Through his descendants, Reuben, Amos, Chesterfield, Silas, Nancy, and others, intermarried with the families of Fairbanks, Hayward, Ballou, Taylor, Gale, Sleeper, Stickney, Lyon, Johnson, and others, he left a numerous progeny.

COMPLETED WORKS (In Typewritten Form)

The writer has now completed extensive work covering the following subjects:

a. **A Chart of the Zachariah Rhodes lines.** The genealogy of this family is in preparation and the chart is as complete as the data at hand to the date of its publication.

b. **A Manuscript Genealogy, of 500 pages, of Henry Rhoades,** of Lynn, Massachusetts.

c. **A Chart of the Family of Henry Rhoades,** of Lynn.

d. **A Genealogical Chart of the descendants of John Rhoads,** of Winegreaves, England, and Darby, Pennsylvania.

e. **A Genealogical Chart of the descendants of John Rhodes,** of Providence, Rhode Island, and Stonington, Connecticut.

f. **A Genealogical Chart of the descendants of John Rhoades,** of England and Scarsdale, New York.

g. **A Genealogical Chart of John Road,** the Mennonite, of Pennsylvania.

h. **A Genealogical Chart of the descendants of Alexander Rhodes,** of Connecticut.

i. **Genealogical Chart of Benjamin Rhoades,** of Vermont.

j. **Genealogical Chart of Asa Rhodes,** of Rhode Island, Vermont and Massachusetts.

k. **Genealogical Chart of Michael Rhodes,** of Maine.

l. **Genealogical Chart of Solomon Rhoades,** of New Hampshire.

Copies of the above, except No. b, will be furnished free to those who will furnish substantial additional matter to their contents. They will be furnished at actual cost to interested members of the family, and will be furnished to interested persons outside the family at a price to be quoted. The real object of their preparation is to encourage their extension and completion.

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